

Notification of reservation in admission

2918. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have notified Central Education Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Act;

(b) whether the apex Court has stayed implementation of the above law in absence of any definition of OBC and insisted admission in colleges only on merit;

(c) if so, whether Supreme Court's order is not a set back to Government's policy of 27 per cent reservation quota for OBC;

(d) whether Government would start a fresh census in the country on the basis of existing caste system, and this will not be against national interests; and

(e) if no figures of population of different castes are available, on what basis reservation policy would be framed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes Sir, the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Act, 2006, has been notified on the 4th January, 2007.

(b) to (e) The Hon'ble Supreme Court by its Interim Order dated the 29th March, 2007, has 'stayed' the operation of the provision of the Act relating to reservation for the Other Backward Classes. The matter is posted for hearing on the 8th May, 2007. The matter is *sub-judice*.

Distance education by all Universities

2921. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal of Government to allow all the universities including deemed to be universities to run distance education courses throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;